

**Androscoggin Riverlands Park
Public Meeting
Lewiston, Maine**

Date: June 30, 2009

Public comment included the following topics:

- Water access close to L/A is a wonderful attribute of this park and the new park is a nice opportunity.
- Trail access in this part of the region must be looked at carefully to avoid conflicts with trails over private property.
- Working with local municipalities is important.
- Minor changes to existing land are okay; keep it undeveloped which is its uniqueness.
- Conflict with hunting and trails must be avoided; keep an area set aside for hunting.
- Do not over-develop the property. The beauty of it is that is not developed.
- A comparison with Bradbury Mountain State Park was made to talk about hunting versus other park uses.
- Signage at entrance, and clean-up of signage, is all that is needed for improvements at ARP.
- Separate the trail uses (ATV vs hiking) so that conflicts are avoided and the park can be used by different groups at the same time.
- Horse trails should not be forgotten; maybe a separate trail system is needed or signage and controls.
- Multi-use trails (for all uses) are great, but trails for just hikers should be included.
- Bike racks need to be added at ARP.
- Cross-country trails separate from ATV trails, and controls for ATV uses are needed.
- Signage to prevent access to/from abutting private lands is essential.
- Wildlife field trips should not allow mechanical vehicles to view wildlife.
- The model of a Land Trust parcel was cited as a good model - no fees to access the ARP lands, was noted as preferable.
- The issue of boating access to the river was discussed. There was a desire to horsepower limits for water use put in place.
- Keep large areas of the park open to sportsmen because that has been the historic use.
- There is a need to maintain a gated entrance and to police for no dumping.
- Law enforcement and emergency services were discussed. It was suggested that a sub-committee consisting of LA police, Maine State Police, forestry and IF&W be formed to develop an enforcement/emergency services plans.
- Will there be a fee for park use? That is not known, but will be part of this plan.
- The issue of hunting at public state parks was raised; Ron Hunt discussed how it is handled at existing parks.
- A trail map depicting hunting areas will need to be developed.

- There was a question of the development of a park vision; this is what is being done now by the Advisory Committee.
- The Lisbon Beaver Park was cited as an example of a parcel where existing conditions were preserved and a park being not over-developed.
- 4-season uses are existing uses at ARP and must be continued in the new park.
- There was a desire to see a written management plan/trash pick-up/clean-up/which will be a part of the master plan for this park.
- Preservation of wildlife habitat is important; it was felt that a good portion of the parcel needs to be left alone.
- There was a desire to develop a trail maintenance system? The State will do this part of this plan.
- Hunting uses must be allowed to continue at this parcel.
- Are there records of existing trail uses? These are being gathered/worked upon this year.

The public was advised to sent comments to

- [Androscogginriverlands @gmail.com](mailto:Androscogginriverlands@gmail.com)